

**Harrisonburg Police Department**  
**Contact:      Officer Greg Deeds**  
**540-437-2613**



## **HPD Increases Patrols on St. Patrick's Day to Catch Intoxicated Drivers**

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, the Harrisonburg Police Department is urging motorists to plan a safe ride home and not get behind the wheel impaired. During this holiday officers will be on high alert, cracking down on intoxicated drivers as part of its *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* public safety campaign.

"For many Americans, St. Patrick's Day has become a popular opportunity to celebrate with friends and family. Unfortunately, due to intoxicated drivers, the festivities have also become very dangerous," said Harrisonburg Police Chief Stephen Monticelli.

"On average, every 51 minutes a person is killed in an alcohol-related crash in the United States and two out of five deaths in crashes between 2006-2010 involved an intoxicated driver during the St. Patrick's Day holiday," Monticelli added.

Last year, HPD officers made 167 arrests on motorists who were caught driving intoxicated in the city. This year, HPD is strengthening their traffic enforcement efforts, and this increase in visibility will be apparent during the St. Patrick's Day holiday weekend with additional officers on the road through selective enforcement and checkpoints.

"Driving a vehicle or riding a motorcycle while impaired is not worth the risk," says HPD Motor Officer Greg Deeds.

Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver licenses, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs, and lost wages due to time off from work.

Deeds added, "Trusting your luck to driving intoxicated can cost you your pot of gold."

HPD recommends the following easy steps to have a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation to get home safely.
- If you see an intoxicated driver on the road, contact local police.

For more information, visit [www.trafficssafetymarketing.gov](http://www.trafficssafetymarketing.gov)